

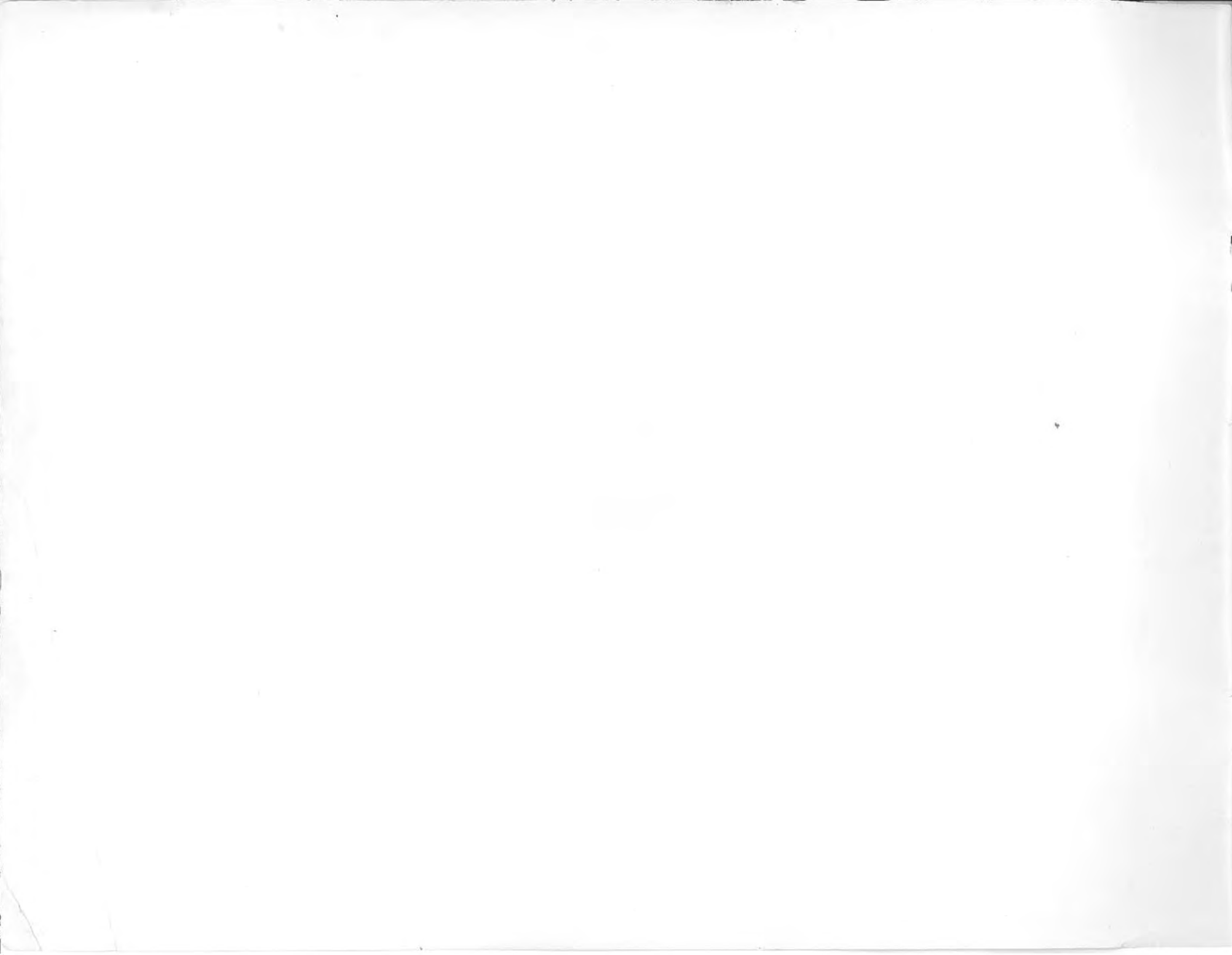
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Wilson Centennial

1858-1958





CELEBRATING

THE

100th Anniversary

OF THE

Village of Wilson, New York



GREETINGS!



BEACH HICKS
General Chairman



ROBERT HORTON
Mayor of Wilson

Our heritages, we all have many, sometimes are not appreciated unless, for some specific reason, they are called to our attention.

The various legal and spiritual holidays of each year keep us attuned to our personal responsibilities in recognizing these heritages.

This August, 1958, the village of Wilson, our home, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The excellent response of all its people and good neighbors, to aid in this celebration, signifies the recognition of the heritage each of us has from our forebears.

The success of this celebration will knit more firmly the already existing close friendships of long years among the participants working together, and will lend much pleasure to all spectators of this centennial.

The board of directors, officers, chairmen and committee members have enjoyed a most interesting and worth-while experience in the preparation of this event, and are grateful for the honor and privilege to have served.

We wish every Wilsonite and the thousands of visitors the richest of lasting memories of this Centennial.

BEACH C. HICKS,
General Chairman.

We are thankful that this year it is our privilege to be able to celebrate our 100th birthday under the gracious circumstances resulting from the forbearance, intuition, and desire for freedom of our families preceding us.

On the brink of amazing and beneficial discoveries we hold hope that the generations to follow may have the good fortunes, as we have seen, to have a free enterprise system of living and enjoyment of life.

Having been wrought with no major calamities since Henry Lockwood and family arrived in our community one hundred fifty years past, we must pause and appreciate the many opportunities that living in these United States of America and this environment of Wilson encourages us to follow.

Therefore, it is befitting that we rejoice in this recollection of former times and we pray one hundred years hence that the inhabitants then present will be as fortunate as we have been, and will have the opportunity to join in a Bi-Centennial celebration.

R. J. HORTON,
Mayor—Village of Wilson.



Executive Committee

LEFT TO RIGHT:

STANLEY BORNGRAEBER
KENNETH WELKER
MAXINE GNAGE
JAMES CORNELL
MARK HUNTINGTON

NOT IN PICTURE

Chairman—BEACH HICKS
Mayor—ROBERT HORTON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The success of this Centennial has been achieved solely through the complete co-operation of all who live in the Village of Wilson and in Wilson Township. The members of each committee with their Chairmen have worked long hours with many meetings to make this project a success. Each Committee has worked hard within itself and in complete accord with all committees to accomplish a successful and long remembered 100th Birthday Celebration of Wilson. To the members of the Centennial Souvenir Book Committee, to all others who contributed and to our Advertisers, our sincere appreciation. May there always remain this warm regard for our Town.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD CAUFIELD
Chairmen of Centennial Souvenir Book

THE WILSON STORY

The year 1958 will long be remembered by the residents of Wilson and its environs, as we celebrate the Centennial of its incorporation and the Sesqui-Centennial of the arrival of the first white man to this vicinity. As we look back over a hundred years, and in sober reflection, consider the contributions of our founding fathers in making our village possible, we pause to consider their reasons for migrating to this area and the kind of land which they found.

Shortly after the turn of the Nineteenth Century, the migration of pioneer settlers began in Western New York State. The towns and villages of Niagara County were originally a part of a grant of land, The Holland Land Purchase, as was most of Western New York. The original tract consisted of nearly three million acres.

The distinction of being the first settler in the vicinity we now know as Wilson, is attributed to a man by the name of Henry Lockwood, who came from Canada and arrived in the year 1808. He purchased from the Holland Land Company, 100 acres of land in the northeast portion of the town and built his home near the mouth of the creek which later was named for him. Necessity, coupled with ingenuity, and a great deal of painstaking labor, prompted these pioneers to apply their skills and natural resources in the building of their homes. They had the choice of the finest timber and they of course constructed log houses with slabs for floors and bark for the roof. Shelter would be the proper description, as convenience could hardly be applied to so primitive an existence.

Later in the year 1808, Robert Waterhouse arrived from Connecticut and settled in the south part of the town.

A year later, Stephen Sheldon with his large family, came from Jefferson County and claimed a grant which was sold to him by the Holland Land Company. It consisted of 720 acres and located on the west bank of the east branch of Twelve Mile Creek. The name of the creek was derived by determining the distance from the mouth of the Niagara River along the lake shore, to the mouth of the creek. A crude house was built about half a mile from the mouth of the creek. In 1811, another house was built of a more permanent nature, but was later destroyed by the British. Stephen Sheldon died in 1808 and did not live to see the tragic end to which his son, Smith was to succumb, as he was captured in a British raid and died aboard a prison ship in Canada in 1814.



In more rapid progression, the year 1810 saw the larger group of settlers arriving. Reuben Wilson, Gilbert Perry and John Eastman left Toronto, Canada, in the month of April of that year and proceeded to Wilson. Gilbert Perry was the boatsman and the other two men and their families, together with their household effects and farming equipment, rowed and sailed around the end of the lake, using two open batteaux of flat boats. The one they used for freight and the other for passengers. They sailed close to the shore so that at night they could go ashore and set up camp. This little band of settlers arrived near the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek early in July, after a hard and laborious journey.

It was a mile and a half further east that they chose to make their homes. Drawing the boats ashore and inverting them on stakes driven into the ground, they made a resemblance of a house, the sides being made of boughs and bark. These temporary accommodations were replaced by houses of a more permanent nature which each of the men assisted the other in constructing. These summer quarters were adequate as long as the weather remained mild. A fire over which an iron pot was suspended on a tripod of stakes, was the principal means of cooking food.

The actual experiences of the Pioneers and their emigration can be appreciated by quoting the description given by Reuben Wilson himself.

"When I came in, there was scarcely an acre of land cleared in Wilson. There was no road up and down the lake. In the Fall of 1811 there was a road opened from Fort Niagara to Somerset; it was generally along the lake shore tho deviating at the streams; at its termination a foot path continued on to Johnson's Creek, on the Ridge Road . . . The first year I came in, I had my provisions to procure from Canada; the second year I raised my own; at the end of two years I had fifteen acres of improvements."

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SY WWA101 M. GOVT PD=THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20:
=THE HONORABLE ROBERT J HORTON=
MAYOR OF WILSON WILSON NY=

TO THE CITIZENS OF WILSON JOINED IN THE CELEBRATION OF
THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY, I SEND GREETINGS.
4 OVER THE PAST 100 YEARS, THIS VILLAGE HAS
WITNESSED MANY CHANGES IN THE LIFE OF ITS PEOPLE. BUT A
CONSTANT SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR YOUR COMMUNITY IS FOUND
IN THE AMERICAN TRADITIONS OF ENTERPRISE AND COOPERATION.
4 CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES=
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STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

AVERELL HARRIMAN
GOVERNOR

June 19, 1958

My dear Mayor:

I send cordial greetings to you and to all of the good people of Wilson as your village celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Surrounded by fine orchards and farms, with many pleasure craft using your harbor on Lake Ontario, you people of Wilson can look forward, I am confident, to enjoying more pleasures and greater prosperity in the century ahead.

To you and to all participating in your centennial ceremonies, I send best wishes.

Sincerely,

Averell Harriman

The Honorable Robert J. Horton
Mayor of the Village of Wilson
Niagara County
Wilson, New York

"When I first began to raise grain I had to cross to Port Hope and Hamilton for the grinding. Even after mills were built upon the purchase, it was easier to go across the lake than to travel upon the new roads. Previous to the war, myself and neighbors did our trading at Niagara. Dr. Alvord and Dr. Smith of Lewiston, were our first physicians. We had no meetings or schools previous to the war; after it and up to 1820, we had but occasional preaching in the neighborhood by missionaries. We organized a school in 1815; built a log schoolhouse; Dr. Warner was our first teacher. He was both teacher and physician. Our school commenced with only ten or fifteen scholars. A saw mill was built in 1815 at the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek by Daniel Shelden and Joshua Williams. I purchased the property in 1816 and built a grist mill in 1815."

It can be truly said and rightfully so, that although two or three others preceded him in settling here, Reuben Wilson was the most outstanding of the pioneer settlers and for forty years was prominently associated with, and closely identified with the political, agricultural, business, cultural and religious activities of the community, which now proudly bears his name.

The land which Mr. Wilson purchased consisted of 170 acres on lot #82 and the purchase price was \$2.50 per acre. No down payment was required but a commitment to pay 5% in a few months was agreed upon. His finances were depleted when he arrived, as the remaining 50 cents was used for provisions.

The first grist mill was an important addition to the community, for prior to this, the only means of grinding corn was by using a large oak tree stump which had been hollowed out and a spring pole and pestle attached for the grinding.

Gilbert Purdy, who had come with Mr. Wilson and Mr. Eastman, decided to move farther up the lake and took claim to Lot #26, consisting of 100 acres. He died, however, in 1813. Before his death, he brought his family from Coburg, Canada. Mr. Eastman, the other member of the trio who settled on Lot #82 (100) acres, later exchanged with James Cole and moved to Hartland.

While the settlers were attempting to get situated under conditions which were already most difficult, the fighting of the Indians, among themselves and the constant threat of being attacked by these unfriendly savages cast fear and dread in their midst.

The War of 1812 and the events which took place at Fort Niagara, together with the burning of Newark, now Niagara on the Lake, fanned the sparks of hatred into fire and the British, together with their Indian allies, were ruthless as they marched eastward.

The forthright courage of one George Ash, who warned the settlers of the approaching enemy, saved his neighbors from much destruction of life and property. There were about twenty-five head of cattle in the vicinity and Reuben Wilson Jr., 15 years of age, was successful in driving the herd eastward, stuffing the cow bells with dried leaves so they could not be detected. He remained until it was safe to return after the invaders had left.

Reuben Wilson Sr., was taken prisoner at Fort Niagara but was released after ten days. Many of the homes were burned. Mrs. Wilson had been forewarned, and while several members of the family were in hiding, she was a gracious hostess and provided food and lodging for the British officers, thus giving protection for the home which they spared. They proceeded to Van Horns, now Burt, burning and destroying as they went, the grist mill being their objective.



The Ferdonia Canning Factory. At right is J. E. Pettit Grain and Feed Co. It is now owned by Rex Stacy. The Ferdonia Canning Factory burned in 1944. At this site the new Pfeiffer Plant is being erected.



New York Central Railroad Depot where passenger, freight and mail-trains ran daily.



Steven-Taggerts grocery store above the railroad tracks. At the left is Singer and Bean Cold Storage which is now the Wilson Cold Storage.

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A severe and very difficult winter followed the war and hardship was experienced by many of the settlers. Dr. Alvord from Lewiston was killed as he mounted his horse, in the course of answering a call to administer to the sick.

Some of the historical landmarks of the vicinity are of interest and played important parts in its progress. To the west of the town is a hill which is known as Battery Hill, so designated because of its strategic position for a mounted cannon. To the north about a mile and opposite Battery Hill is Cannon Ball Hill. The flat between made a convenient place for target practice.

The Stevens home on Cooper St. is located on the property known as Battery Hill and Cannon Ball Hill is adjacent to Greenwood Cemetery.

On the island situated at the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek, was an encampment for local militia. Troops from Fort Niagara were also stationed there. It was called Camp Cuyler, named for Major William C. Cuyler, 1st officer to be killed on the Niagara Frontier. Troops protected the harbor from the British entering the creek.



The Tower House which stood where the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church now stands. It burned in 1908. Picture taken while burning.



Wilson Cooperage which stood near the Depot.



Sutherland Hotel. On this location the Ontario House once stood. It burned in 1894. This building burned in 1908. At the present time it is the site of Meek's Coffee Shop.



The Depot as it appeared in the early 1900's.



Pittsburg Hotel that stood on Sunset Beach and burned in 1911.

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WILSON, NEW YORK





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Graduate of Kentucky University
1903

Intern St. Mary's Hospital
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In the year 1818, the Town of Wilson, which was formerly a part of the Town of Porter, organized its own town meeting. The first meeting was held April 6, 1819, at the home of David Porter. Reuben Wilson, the first Justice, presided over the meeting and \$25 was collected for the support of the poor.

Benjamin Douglas built the first ashery and opened a store on Twleve Mile Creek. In 1818 T. T. Upton opened the first tavern west of the village.

The first post office was opened in 1824, Reuben Wilson being the first postmaster Daniel Holmes contracted to bring the mail from Olcott to Wilson. Mail was brought once a week.

Simon Sheldon built the first tannery in 1825 and operated it for four or five years, after which operations were suspended.

A blacksmith, Henry Johnson, settled in Wilson in 1824.

Owen Wilson, son of Reuben, was the first child born in town. Peter Furrow, a mason, came from Massachusetts in 1824 and was actively engaged in his trade until 1840, having worked on all early mills and buildings in the village.

Jonathan Thayer, a physician from Dutchess County, located in Wilson in 1824. He purchased 100 acres (from Reuben Wilson) where he lived and practiced his profession.

Dr. Hiram B. Tabor came from Orange County, Vermont in 1837 and practiced until his death. He was an outstanding physician.

As the history of any community in America varies in some of its aspects, there are certain characteristics which are common to all. One of the main reasons for the colonization of our country was to give the individual the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. As soon as there were settlers in any given community, one could observe the interest in the church and the desire of the majority to establish a means and place for worship.

Our community was no exception and the history of the churches is a fascinating story and a revelation of the faith and piety of its founders.

The Rev. David M. Smith, pastor of the Lewiston Presbyterian Church, while visiting in the home of John Holmes in the Town of Wilson, organized the Presbyterian Church. The membership consisted of John Holmes and his wife Anne, Daniel Holmes and his wife Sally, ruling elders. The membership increased in the next five years. The first regular pastor was Ebenezer Everett. The meetings were held in a schoolhouse on the corner of Ide and Townline Roads. The Holmes were faithful in their attendance, walking three miles with the members of their family accompanying them. Other members were, Henry Lockwood, David Bixby, Erastus Barnard, Mary Davis, Sophis Whitney, Sarah M. Davis, Phila Bixby, Mary Earl, Anna Barnes, Thankful Stout, Amanda Coomer and Lydia Barnard.

In 1834 a church was erected on a lot donated by Luther Wilson after which a revival was held and as a result, the society increased rapidly. The church received 100 acres of land from the Holland Company because it was the first church in the Wilson area. This property was sold in order to buy property nearer the schoolhouse.

The first mention of Methodist was in 1823, and they were served during this time by Circuit Riders, who visited from time to time, preaching in the homes or schoolhouses as the opportunity arose. A society of Methodists was formed and incorporated according to law. Sylvester Hosmer and Daniel Perry were the presiding officers. John Haze, Samuel Perry, Samuel Merion, Cyrus Case, Luther Wilson, Samuel Healy and Sylvester Hosmer were elected trustees.



Dr. John F. Argue, M.D.

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1935

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On a lot purchased from Andrew Brown (known as Squire Brown) on the north side of High St. extending from Lake St. to Warren St., a frame church was built on this property. The first minister was Dr. DePuy regularly appointed to the charge, his salary being \$415 a year with various groups within the church furnishing cords of wood for fuel. He also preached once every four weeks on the Randall Road, at the white schoolhouse on Townline Road, on the Slash Road and on Ide Road. In 1857 a building was purchased from Luther Wilson for \$32 and moved to the church property and was known as Wesley Chapel. The Sunday School connected with this church was one of the first in this region.

In 1883 as a result of a gift of \$5,000, given by the Thomas Exley family, the present church was made possible. The Exleys emigrated to this country from England in 1849 and lived on a farm at the corner of Ide and Slash Roads.

Miss Lottie Coombs was the first child to be baptized in the new church.

In 1912 and 1950 extensive additions were made to accommodate the increase in membership. The Rev. Walter Kingsley is the present pastor and is beginning the 13th year of his pastorate.

In the year 1833, Brother Russell Robinson, a Baptist from Potsdam, N. Y., then living on Slash Road, interested a group of those favorably inclined toward the Baptist Faith, and another of our religious communions came into being. Stephen Millard and his wife, formerly from St. Catharines, Ontario, were instrumental in securing the support of Harvey and Abraham Pettit. It must be said of all the Churches mentioned that their inception was by no means an easy task but they were undergirded by those of genuine devotion to God whose faith and prayers sustained their efforts. Through the cooperation of the Baptist Church in Newfane, Amos Reed became the first pastor. The first group who composed the newly formed church were, Russell Robinson and his wife Sarah, Stephen and Anise Millard, Franklin, Jerusha and Sally Oliver, Abraham Pettit, Harvey Pettit, Elect and Curtiss Pettit, Alanson Robinson and his wife, Sally.

A covenant and articles of faith were adopted in June of 1834 and Brother Russell Robinson became the Deacon. Brother R. D. Pierce, a licentiate of the Newfane Church, was called to spend the summer with the Wilson church, his salary consisting of board, lodging and clothes. In 1837 Elder J. Halliday was called as pastor at \$200 a year salary and a house furnished to live in.

In 1847 a lot was purchased from Luther Wilson, at the corner of Pettit and Chestnut St. A church was erected at a cost of \$2,200. Services were previously held in the cobblestone schoolhouse nearby.

During the pastorate of S. S. Bidwell a new church was built, but was later destroyed by fire of undetermined origin in 1912.

The congregation met in the Presbyterian church until it was decided to build the present church which was erected in 1920. The Rev. R. Carlton Fawcett is the present pastor.

A Free Methodist class was organized at Wilson in 1865, with John Billings, Albert A. Dailey, William Robinson, John Colbeth among the early members. This group was closely associated with the Porter church and in 1874 William Allen, William Doyle, Ira Wilcox and William Parish, purchased a lot in Wilson for \$800 with buildings which were remodeled for a meeting house. It was dedicated in 1874 by Rev. B. T. Roberts, of Rochester. Previously the meetings were held in the homes or school houses. This church belonged to what was known as the Porter Wilson Circuit and later the Lockport Newfane Circuit, but it was later dissolved.

The first Roman Catholic church in this area was in Cambria in 1868. Father Hugh Mulholland of Newfane was the first priest to serve this area, and



Decorative Floats of Parade on Main Street.



Odd Fellows Parade. Old Baptist Church on left foreground.



Parade on Main St.—early 1900's

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Wilson, New York

Mass was celebrated in private homes. Monsignor James Monigan of Buffalo was a visitor in Wilson and celebrated Mass in a small cottage on the lake. For four years mass was celebrated part time in a park pavilion and part time in a hall on Sunset Island. These were celebrated by Father Daniel Kieran of Cambria. Later he began celebrating Mass every two weeks in a store owned by Mrs. Joseph Day.

In 1915 a proposal to build a church was started and in 1919 a lot was purchased and Father Vincent McCarthy of the Cambria church was instrumental in the establishment of the Wilson church. The church was completed and Mass was first celebrated August 15, 1920.

By 1931 the church became inadequate to accommodate the rapidly increasing membership and arrangements were made to purchase the property vacated by the Presbyterians. After extensive remodeling, the church was blessed on August 15, 1931 and Mass celebrated by Father McCarthy. The Right Rev. Bishop Turner changed the title to Our Lady Of The Rosary.

Father McCarthy was succeeded by Father Edward L. Roche, who served from 1939 to 1943. Father Francis Crowley served from 1943 to 1949. The present pastor, The Rev. Christopher Roche, was installed by the Right Rev. Monsignor F. J. Tronolone, January 6, 1949 and is serving at the present time.

The Episcopal Church in Niagara County dates back to the early date of 1823, and the diocese of Western New York was formed in 1838. It was in 1929 that the local communion was formed with the group consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Seward Moot, Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Gale, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Galbraith and Mr. and Mrs. A. Ernest Horton, under the leadership of Dr. Henry F. Swicker of Grace Church, Lockport.

The former Catholic church having been vacated, was purchased, and used for their worship. This church has had a steady growth and many other families have joined this fellowship. Mrs. Lyla Teague, Mrs. William Attfield, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Marks and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Marks were among those who were received.

In 1953 a large Parish Hall was added at the rear of the church thus adding to the building necessary room for Sunday School and recreational activity.

Dr. Swicker conducted services frequently while capable readers were faithful assistants. Fred Oliver, Robert Jackson and Frank Hornsby served in this capacity.

The Rev. Albert French of Youngstown served as pastor from 1947 to 1950. The Rev. Edward J. Kryder served from 1953 to 1958.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church A. L. C. was organized in 1936, by Rev. Albert Glessner. Members of the first church council were Holger Jensen, Neil Thompson, Lawrence Arnold and Ray Toennissen. Six families composed the first congregation.

Early meetings were held in the old fire hall. The present property was purchased from the fire company and is located on the corner of Young and Center Streets. The cornerstone of the present building was laid in 1938 and dedicated in 1939. Pastor and people assisted in much of the labor for the construction. The present pastor is the Rev. A. F. G. Daechsel.

It is interesting to note that while adequate means of worship were of great concern, equally important was the establishment of schools for the intellectual development of both youth and adults. The first school mentioned was for adults which met as an evening class in the farm home of A. B. Arnold, located about a mile south of the village and taught by Luther Wilson. This was held in January and February of 1818.



Home of Luther Wilson. Later it was remodeled to become the Wilsonian Club and is now the Wilson House.



The site of the first Wilson Free Library, later Town Clerk's Office.



The former Wilson Union School



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran ALC
Young Street, Wilson



Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
Beebe Road, East Wilson



East Wilson Methodist Church
Chestnut Road, East Wilson



The Exley Methodist Church
Lake Street, Wilson

Pictures of Wilson and Area Churches



St. John's Episcopal Church, Lake Street, Wilson



The First Baptist Church, Pettit Street, Wilson



Our Lady of the Rosary, Catholic Church
Lake Street, Wilson

The first schoolhouse was built of logs in 1818 about a mile and a half east of the Village, taught by Dr. Warner of Newfane.

The first schoolhouse in the village was built in 1820 and was located on the southeast corner of Young and Lake St. This site later became the home of Luther Wilson and today the Wilson Club. The first teacher in this school was Almira Welch, followed by David Murray. A cobblestone school was built on Pettit St. in 1852 and was known for many years as the Village School.

A further advance in the educational facilities was made as the result of action taken by a group of interested citizens under the leadership of Luther Wilson in 1845. A meeting was held March 13, 1845 at which time a joint stock company was formed. It was the desire of the people interested to make it possible for the youth to prepare themselves for college at home rather than have to go elsewhere. Simon Sheldon donated a suitable plot of land and \$50. Luther Wilson gave \$500 and with a subscription which was raised among 50 other citizens amounting to \$2454, funds were sufficient to build a two story cobblestone building. It was opened in the fall of 1845 with about 200 students in attendance.

A Board of Trustees were elected to manage the school affairs. Benjamin Wilcox was the first principal, David Davis was Vice Principal.

The school was given the name, Wilson Collegiate Institute. Miss Charlotte Halsey was preceptress and with one other, the faculty consisted of four.

The school was incorporated with the Regents of the University of the State of New York on February 19, 1846.

The catalogues describe the school in the following manner, "as being removed from the interruptions and annoyances of a central location, 'because it was away from the business center of the village.' The good character of the inhabitants and the absence of allurements to vice which abound in many other larger villages, recommend Wilson".

The means of transportation being limited, the students from away found it necessary to stay in the village during the week. They boarded in private homes, finding good rooms for fifty and seventy-five cents a week and board for \$1.75 to \$2.25 per week.

Many of the students basket boarded which meant, they brought food for the week, hoping that the lady of the house would prepare it for them.

The school year consisted of three terms of fifteen weeks each, with tuition as follows; common English branches and Natural Philosophy \$4. For each of the higher branches \$5.00 until three were taken. The highest rate for all sciences was \$5.60; languages \$6; Music with use of instruments \$10; Painting and drawing \$2 and incidental expenses listed at \$.25 or \$.35.

The subject taught were Algebra, Astronomy, Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, Botany, Composition Chemistry, Criticism, Evidences of Christianity, Elocution, French, English Grammar, Law, (Constitutional and Governmental), Logic, Mathematics, Orthography orthoepey, Political Economy, Parsing, Philosophy, Physiology, Reading Roman Antiquities, Rhetoric and Surveying. These subjects were all covered by the faculty of four or five and a student body of 200 to 400 over a period of years.

The school was well equipped and library consisted of 700 to 1000 volumes.

In 1845 the school was one of ninety in the state named to instruct a Normal class. The number of students was limited to 25 and would receive gratuitous instruction for a single term. The age requirements for ladies being 16 and for gentlemen 18. In 1855 the class was limited to 20 and the school was paid \$10 for each student.



Bustt and Chapman Grist Mill which stood on West Young St. by the Bridge.



Lake Street looking north from Railroad Tracks.



Lake St. looking north of Main St. The cross street, beyond the pole, is Wood St.



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Wilson, N. Y.



Best Wishes
on the
100th Anniversary



**SOUTH WILSON
VOLUNTEER FIRE CO., INC.**

Chestnut Road
South Wilson, N. Y.

Strict discipline was maintained and each student was required to be in their rooms by 7:30 in the evening. Attendance at balls and dancing parties was prohibited without parents consent.

All students were expected to attend the church of their choice each Sabbath unless providentially detained. Points were given on their report cards for attendance.

The Wilson Collegiate Institute was a very popular school especially during the years that Mr. Wilcox was principal. It was supported by the tuition of the students and the State Literature Fund, the earliest form of State aid.

In 1853 a law was passed enabling Union Free school districts to be established from one or more smaller districts providing that one third of the inhabitants of such districts were present and that two thirds of these voted for union. After much discussion, a Union District was organized in 1866.

The Collegiate Institute passed through difficult times during the Civil War years and when the Union Free District came into being the Institute deeded their buildings and property to them.

In 1869 the new school board met to consider the repairs to the academy building and the securing of a principal. As Mr. Wilcox declined to continue, the new academic department opened in September of 1870 with H. C. Hall as principal. A grammar department was also opened in the Academy building. The other schools of the district were located in the following places: No. 1 Pettit St., No. 2 Maple St. and Youngstown Rd., No. 5 South of Village on Townline Rd., No. 9 West on Youngstown, and Randall Rd.

H. C. Hall gave efficient service, laying a firm foundation for the new arrangement. During the administration of Freeman A. Green (1871-1876) further advancement was made. In 1875 the two year term was adopted for the Wilson School.

In June of 1874 the Board of Education arranged for the first graduation of the Union School. The first graduates, Lydia Pettit (Dox) and Helen Pettit (Swallow), were cousins. In 1875 there were two graduates, Carrie Marks (McChesney) and Ada Parsons. In 1876 there was one graduate, Denie Markle.

In 1876 the salary of the principal was set at \$1000 and given the power to call teachers meetings once a month and have advisory control over the teachers as regards to methods of teaching and government and was to use proper methods to secure greater regularity of attendance in school.

Mr. Green's successors were, A. Marion Cooper 1875-1877, A. Hall Burdick 1878, S. J. Pardee 1882, Charles Luther 1886-1891. It was during the administration of Mr. Burdick that the Regents in academic subjects were held.

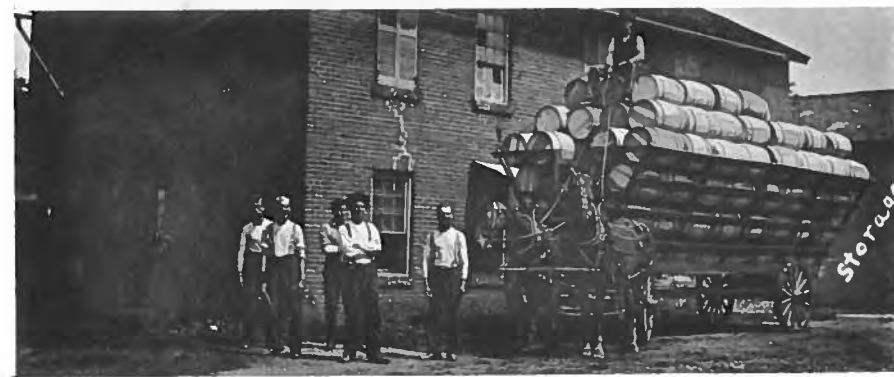
An addition to the old Collegiate building was added in 1889 and at this time the primary department was moved to this building, the Pettit St. school was probably abandoned at this time. In 1893-1898, Hiram Hustleby became principal and was accredited with influencing many of the older boys to return and finish their education. He instituted assemblies at which time students were required to give extemporaneous speeches. Social events and other affairs were held to raise funds to purchase a piano, which was finally accomplished in 1895.

In June of 1895 the fiftieth anniversary was held and special exercises were held in the Baptist church. There were two graduates, Minnie Sutherland and Clarence Johnson. There were 420 students and 8 teachers at this time.

In the year 1899-1900 a teachers training class was formed. There had to be at least ten pupils to have such a class. Miss Alvia Martin, the first teacher most people remember, conducted this class.



A group of the Members of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) which was named after Peter Porter Post 126; left to right are: John Hamblin, Henry Hutchinson, William Holmes, W. H. H. Wright, Martin Schuck, Mr. Rice, Adelbert Mudge, Harvey Swick, Bernard Barber, Levi Pettit, John Litchard. The building in the background was the first Firehall.



Johnson Cooperage, located on north-east corner of Chestnut and Wood St. Second from right is Mr. Johnson.



Wilson Post Office. Mr. Johnson, Post Master and Rural Mail Carrier

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In 1903 Mr. McElroy became the principal and served for 24½ years. Mrs. Carrie Martin came in 1900 and remained for 35 years. Miss Lotta Coombs and Miss Ruth Hamblin, both present members of the Central School Faculty have enviable records of 30 and 40 years of service respectively.

Lenora Kruske and Cora Blake, also teachers for many years, are remembered for their long tenure, in the Wilson system.

In 1928 the Administration of A. W. Blemaster began and it was through his influence and guidance that Wilson gained recognition in the field of athletics.

A growing community and the deteriorating condition of the old school, were among the reasons for the unanimous consent to build a new centralized school. In April of 1935 the cornerstone was laid for this building. Unification of all districts was accomplished and today, with the addition of the new Thomas Marks Elementary School, the community can be justly proud of its educational facilities. At the present time there is 1600 enrolled and a faculty of 80. Progress of immense proportions attests to the foresightedness of the citizens.

Mr. L. Ernest Tarr is the present principal with Mr. Richard Schmidle as vice principal.

In 1827 Reuben and Luther Wilson laid out the first lots which were surveyed on the north side of the main street, or Young St. as we know it today. The first stores and houses were located here. In 1842 Luther and Jesse P. Hains surveyed the remainder of the holdings in the northwest section and divided it into building lots. In 1846 permission was granted from the Secretary of War to build piers 200 feet in length and extending into the lake on either side of Twelve Mile Creek. Luther Wilson was responsible for many of the improvements and business enterprises which took place. He improved the harbor and built a large warehouse for the storing of fruit and grain which he purchased from local farmers. By 1868 12,000 to 13,000 barrels of apples were being shipped from here.

It was also about this time that ship building was added to the list of enterprises promoted in the village. About fifteen ships were built, among them the Geraldine, a three masted, as large as could be accommodated in the Welland Canal at that time, and the R. F. Wilson, which carried grain, fruits and produce as far as Oswego. Its capacity was 3000 bushels of wheat. While most of the ships were built at the Wilson's ship yard, two were also built at the foot of Lake Street by Daniel Haner and two on the west part of the Island by Henry Putnam. Ira and Roswell Sweet built several, possibly, for the Wilson's.

Another important date in the history of Wilson, was 1867 when, by an act of the Legislature, it was made a port of entry. The next year the duties amounted to \$3,000 and exports amounted to nearly \$75,000.

Business houses listed during the 1860's and Civil War period were numerous and varied. A mechanic shop operated by J. C. McCarth with a lumber yard and planing mill had an output of 800,000 feet of lumber a year.

F. E. Moore & Co., agricultural instruments, manufacturers of the famous "Wilson Plow"; John W. Barger, produce dealer; Wm. Bonsteel, blacksmith; Elwin F. Burton, harness maker, were early Wilson businessmen.

E. V. W. Dox was a surveyor, whose name is found on many of the early deeds and searches.

George Eggleston, Wagon and Carriage maker; Wm. P. Grout, collector and Justice of the Peace in the 1880 and 1890's ran a dry goods store at the location now occupied by Horton's Hardware store, and Abram Hutchings, carpenter and joiner has a shop on the corner of Mechanic and Center St. Others mentioned



The original Wilson Boat House before it burned and was remodeled.



Lake Island Pavillion where dances and farmers picnics were held and is now known as the Tuscorora Club.



Tuscorora River with the Wilson Boat House in rear.

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are Richard Johnson, a blacksmith; John G. Markle, wagon maker with a shop at Catherine and Pettit St., Harvey Sanford at the harbor. Ira Sweet, manufacturer of Eaton's Extension Ladders; Calvin Tabor, wholesale peddler, his sons Clinton D. and Byron D. manufactured agricultural implements in 1874.

Thomas Wilkinson and Calvin Wilson, listed as butchers. LaBaum W. Wilson was the first photographer.

Don Vosburgh, a mason, worked at his trade on many of the old brick buildings still standing in the village. A cheese factory built by Enoch Sanborn, on the Daniels Road, produced 75,000 pounds a year.

In 1878, a local newspaper, The Wilson Star, was first printed by Tower and Betts who sold, after a month, to Charles Honeywell. The paper had a long and enviable record and discontinued publication in March of 1958.

Later stores listed are Perrigo Hardware, Vosburgh General Dry Goods and Groceries, Whittleton Hardware, Johnson Grocery and Post Office, Markle Dry Goods, Henry Grocery, Bush General Store, Jones & Salisbury Drug Store, Reed Furniture & Undertaker, Cuddeback & Cooper the same.

There were several Hotels in the village during the earlier years and Wilson was a favorite resort for tourists. The Ontario House, run by George Moule, adjoining the Presbyterian Church was destroyed by fire in 1894. The American Hotel, a brick building, was located on the present site of the Lutheran church, was also destroyed by fire in 1895 and later rebuilt as the Tower Hotel. The Ontario Hotel was rebuilt as the Sutherland Hotel.

During the winters another industry of great importance was the cutting of ice in Twelve Mile Creek. The ice was delivered by bob sled to the surrounding farms to supply their ice houses as well as the business establishments.

To adequately cover, in chronological order, a detailed account of all of the important events associated with the History of Wilson would take several volumes. It has been our purpose to give a resume of outstanding happenings.

There are residents in the village today who can recall many of the events recorded. The influence of the lives of many people, whose names, time and space prevent us from enumerating, are none the less appreciated.

Few direct descendents of the original Wilson family remain in the town or village, however, the following persons can proudly claim that distinction. Mrs. Catherine Mark and her daughter, Mrs. Patricia Mark Hinckly, are direct descendents. Miss Lula Wilson, oldest descendent in the village, is the granddaughter of Oliver Wilson, son of Luther Wilson, on her mother's side. Mr. Harry Bradley, who resides on the Randall road, is also a descendent on his mother's side.

A fitting celebration of a hundred years of progress is the humble attempt to pay respect to those pioneers who gave so much of themselves that we might enjoy the fruits of their sacrifice.

RALPH E. HESSINGER,
Historian of the Town and Village of Wilson



A. Ackerman Milk Wagon



Hamilton & Clark Furniture Store as it looked when known as Cuddeback & Coopers, prior to 1916.



Charles Haner Grocery Store which has been remodeled and is now the Wilson Library.

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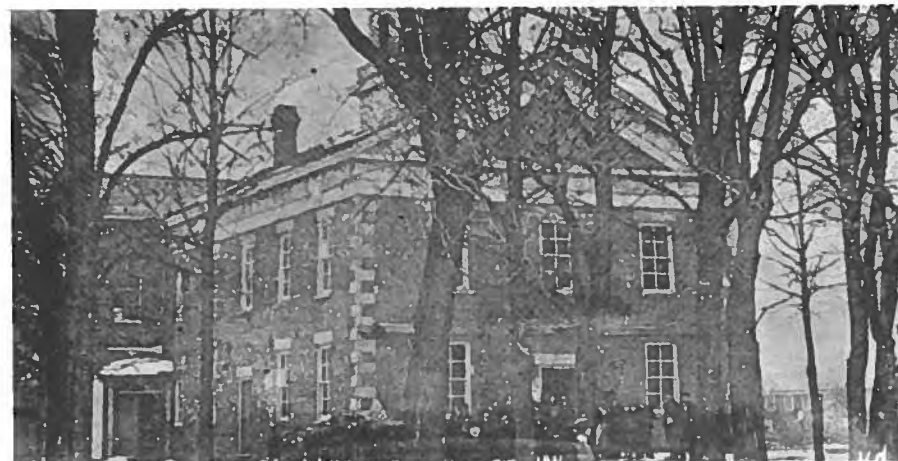
RANSOMVILLE, N. Y.



Mrs. Alma Farrell, a former teacher and elocutionist. She has resided in the Village of Wilson for ninety years.



The Horton family of Wilson. Seated at the left is Robert Horton, our present mayor and owner of Horton Hardware.



The Village School located on Pettit Street, 1887



Ford garage owned and operated by Frank Howell located where the Kendall station now stands. G.A.R. headquarters adjoining it.



Dr. Moore—the town veterinary at his home and office. Mrs. Earl Howell, his daughter, resides there now.



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

(August 24-29 inclusive)



SUNDAY (Americanism Day) — 8:00 p.m.

Two-hundred-voice Chorus
Speaker

MONDAY (Youth Day)

Morning—Kiddies' Parade (six to twelve-year-olds)
Afternoon—Field Contests and Ball Game (teen-agers)
Evening—Juke Box Dance for Teen-Agers

TUESDAY (Ladies' Day)

1:00-8:00 p.m.—Flower Show
2:30 p.m.—Fashion Show
4:00 p.m.—Tea

Evening—8:00 p.m.
Selection and Crowning of the Queen
Pageant and Fireworks
Queen's Ball

*The Pageant that will be held the four nights
will have a cast of 250 or more and will
depict the 100 year history of Wilson.*

WEDNESDAY (Merchants' Day)

Afternoon—Caravan to Neighboring Towns
Awards for essays

Evening—8:00 p.m.
One-hundred-twenty-piece Band Concert
Pageant and Fireworks

THURSDAY (Pioneer Day)

Noon—Basket Picnic
1:30-4:00 p.m.
Program of Awards
Speaker
Contests and Checker Tournament

Evening—8:00 p.m.
Square Dance Festival
Pageant and Fireworks

FRIDAY (Neighbors' Day)

Morning—Tour of Historical Landmarks

Afternoon—1:30 p.m.

Showing and Judging of Antique and Sport Cars
Marine Display
Presentation of Awards

Evening—8:00 p.m.

Presentation of Awards to the Brothers of the Brush
Amvets Girls' Drill Team from N. Tonawanda
Pageant and Fireworks



SATURDAY

Firemen's Field Day

Spectacular, Mammoth Parade

2:00 P.M.

Concessions & Kiddie Rides

Grand Finale of Fireworks

11:00 P.M.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Beach Hicks *General Chairman*
Robert Horton, Kenneth Welker *Headquarters Chairmen*
Stanley Borngraeber, James Cornell *Active General Chairmen*
L. Mark Huntington *Treasurer*
Maxine Gnage *Secretary*

DIVISIONAL AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Insurance Kenneth Welker
Fireworks Don Lort
Operating Capital Eugene Pembroke
Decorations Louis Diez



PUBLICITY DIVISION—John Nicholson

Press Release—Richard Schmidle
Distributive—Berne Kent
Radio and TV—Marion Nicholson
Speakers—Lydia Sporleder
Special Projects—Joseph Rice

HOSPITALITY DIVISION—Ronald Swick

Dignitaries and Guests—Alonzo Swick
Traffic and Safety—Fred Forder and Carlton Funk
Housing—Eleanor Brydges
Pioneer Events—Helen Horton
Hospitality Center—Grace Singer
Transportation—Lillian McPherson

SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION—Ethel Rohring

Merchants' Promotion—Ora Pettit
Parades—Louis Diez
Historical Windows—Felice Dean

SPECIAL DAYS CHAIRMEN

Sunday (*Americanism Day*)—Howard Kayner
Monday (*Youth Day*)—Linda McGrath and Walter Hutchinson
Tuesday (*Ladies' Day*)—Doris Tarr
Wednesday (*Merchants' Day*)—Geraldine Scheffler
Thursday (*Pioneers' Day*)—Lydia Southard
Friday (*Neighbor's Day*)—Dr. John Argue and Don Sinclair

REVENUE DIVISION — Lewis Schrader

Historical Program—Howard and Verna Cauffield
Concessions—Norbert Sherrie
Novelties—E. Richard Clark and Ruth Clark
Celebration Ball—Stanley and Helen Borngraeber

PARTICIPATION DIVISION —

Ladies' Chairman—Anna Mae Nevins
Men's Chairman—Stuart Walpole

Brothers of the Brush—Jack Perry
Men's Hats & Ties—Helen Kepner
Promenade & Caravan—Don Kerwin
"Celebration Belles"—Beatrice Rockwood and Melva Ryan
Ladies' Sunbonnets and Dresses—Mary Cornell
Antique Show—Ralph Hessinger

SPECTACLE TICKET DIVISION—Gordon McPherson

Tickets—William Gangshaw
Patrons' Tickets—Ashley Gale
Advance Sale—Charlton Bulmer
Nominations and Arrangements—Betty Hausmann
Awards—Eleanor Harrington
Cashiers & Gates—Thomas Palisano and Leslie Dickinson
Audience Area—Milton Clark

SPECTACLE DIVISION—L. Ernest Tarr

Scenario & Title—Ruth Gale and Eleanor Moot
Properties—Cynthia Wilson
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Cast—Eleanor and John Myers
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Henry F. Giles Carpenter Shop, formerly located where Jack Perry's Barber Shop now stands.

THE STORY OF SUNSET ISLAND

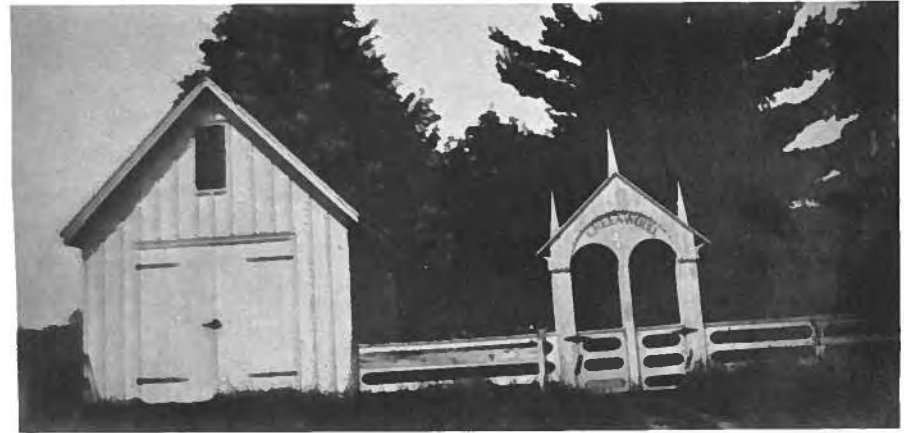
The first mention of Sunset Island in any County or Town history, was an item concerning a cemetery at the east end of the Island in 1812. No record is in existence of the names of persons buried there but it is known where it was located. Some of the old inhabitants of the village, told of a number of shacks that were built along the east end for the accomodation of the men working on the government piers in 1868. Around 1870 on the west end of the Island, it is known, that three sailing lake ships were built at the Putnam Boat yard. These were the "A. J. McBriar," the "Live Oak" and the "Fleet-wing."

Adjacent to the boat-yard on the east, was a field called the "old sheep pasture." Since the farms on the south side of the Twelve Mile Creek extended across the river and over the land to Lake Ontario, it is probable, a farmer considered this a safe place to keep his sheep.

In 1883, George Moule bought the central and east parts of the Island. He cleared off most of the beautiful white oaks and planted wheat in the central part and a small orchard each of plums, pears, and peaches in the east central part and planted cabbages between the trees.

In 1888, Mr. Moule had E. V. W. Dox survey and plot the central part into 40 foot lots on each side and leaving a park in the center from east to west. This division he named "Maple Grove Park." He built a cottage on the river side and his nephew, Miles S. Vosburgh, having just married, lived in it that winter, so they were the first inhabitants of this section. Mr. Vosburgh told that one Spring morning, just at daylight, he saw a group of people coming up from the east of the Island. He found them to be a group of Chinese. They could not understand each other but he figured that they had been brought from Canada, illegally, and landed on the West Pier and then left to shift for themselves. He told them to go West until they came to the Lake Rd. He never heard of them again.

In 1889, J. J. Miller came from Pittsburgh, Pa., with a friend who was building and he bought two lots and employed a contractor to build him a cottage for the following Spring. From that time, Mr. Miller, practically took



The hearse house and entrance to Greenwood Cemetary as it looked in the early days.



Entrance to Wilson Park. The same road leads to the Tuscorora Inn and Beccue's Boat Basin.



Looking out to the entrance of the Greenwood Cemetary in Wilson.



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WILSON DAIRY

WILSON 2961

over Maple Grove Park, buying from Mr. Moule one lot after another to build cottages to rent and sell. He put acetylene gas in the cottages and later built his own power system to provide lights for the cottages years before Wilson had electricity.

He built a community hall for entertainments and dances and throughout the summers and he hired orchestras which brought the young people from the Wilson Village to add to the attendance.

In the 1890's Mr. Miller built a large hotel which he called the "Vendome." This hotel burned after some years and he rebuilt on the same location and then sold it to a Mr. Walters who named it "Glendora." Mr. Walters sold it eventually to William Wright of Pittsburgh who changed the name to "Pittsburgh Hotel." This hotel burned in 1913 and it was never rebuilt. Most of the people who came to these hotels were from Pittsburgh as they were well advertised in the papers there. Several who came bought cottages or lots and so it became almost entirely a Pittsburgh resort. One of the amusing conditions in many of the old deeds was the owner was prohibited from selling liquor on the premises or to keep pigs or chickens. Mr. Miller bought some land at the inlet of the harbor on which he built a boathouse, rented boats and ran a ferry. This ferry boat was a covered steam boat, called the "Duquesne," with a paddle wheel on the back, propelled by an upright boiler that burned either coal or wood. This was replaced by a gasoline boat named the "Osoezie."

For water, at first wells were drilled and some cottages had windmills by the Lake. However, Mr. Miller erected a water tower which supplied the cottages with running water.

The first small store was run for some years by Warren A. Buch and then Mr. Miller built a larger store by the river side. This store has changed hands several times but is still in operation.

The east end of the Island was sold by Mr. Moule in 1910 to Tugwell and Elwood who named it "Lake Island Park North." They had this land divided into lots, leaving a park in the middle, and then sold for cottages. Mrs. Kate Cuddeback built "Huntington Lodge" and boarded summer visitors.

The west end of the Island was originally connected by a narrow strip of land to the Foote farm. This was at first cut through near the present Island so as to carry a canoe or rowboat into the Lake. This eventually washed wider and it has now become a quarter of a mile to the farm.

For some years a tent camp was located in the small wooded section on the point. Saint Mary's on the Hill from Buffalo used this as a vacation spot for their Choir boys. The old sheep pasture became a drilling and camping ground for the old Wilson Militia and also troops from Ft. Niagara at the time of the Spanish American War.

The first year-round home was built by Fred Goodman. He kept a cow which supplied milk to the early cottages. This cottage has always been called the "Tin Cottage." Mr. Timothy Wilson bought on the west end from Mr. Moule and Mr. Miller and built a number of summer homes. As the years have passed, a great deal of land has been washed away by the Lake and has necessitated the moving back of a number of these cottages and some have had to be torn down.

Upon the death of Mr. Miller in 1920 and Mrs. Miller in 1922 their properties were sold at auction. The Sunset Beach Colony, Inc. was formed in 1924 and embraced all divisions of the Island. It bought the Community Hall and the Pumping System and now is the governing body for the entire Island, which consists of 83 cottages at present.

BESSIE D. CRAWFORD.



Preparation for Fireman Field day, 1928, at Wilson.



Parade on Main Street of army men from Youngstown that camped on other side of town.



Main Street in the horse and buggy and Model "T" Days.

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Our Centennial Queen

The Queen and her six Princesses for the Wilson Centennial Celebration will be crowned the evening of the first performance of the Pageant. She will then reign over the Centennial Celebration for the citizens of the Town and Village of Wilson. The memory of her reign will be cherished by the lucky girl for the rest of her lifetime.

To further add to her enjoyment and memory, the Queen and her escort will be awarded an all expense paid weekend vacation at New England's most famous Seashore Hotel, The Wentworth By-the-Sea. It is located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The reservations are already made for September 6th and 7th. Transportation arrangements have been made by the Bassett Travel Agency, Lockport, New York. The Queen and her escort are to fly via American Airlines from Buffalo to Boston, Mass. The initial phase of her trip from Wilson to the Buffalo Airport will be by a Bell Aircraft No. 47J Helicopter, piloted by a Bell Pilot. The final stage of her trip from Boston to Portsmouth will be by an automobile from the Avis Rent-A-Car System.

A few of the other awards or gifts to the Queen are a travel camera from Ansco, a sweater from Walker's Apparel Shop, a Parker Pen and Pencil set, five hours of private dancing lessons from Arthur Murray's Studios, a set of water skis and instructions from Mr. Duane Russel of Appleton, nylon hosiery from Fantashere, a silver cream, sugar and tray set from Garlock's Harbor Antique Shop, a self portrait from the Kondo Studios and many more gifts.

Long Live the Queen.



A group of firemen at their annual picnic, 1958



The early Masonic Building and Markle General Store which burned many years ago.

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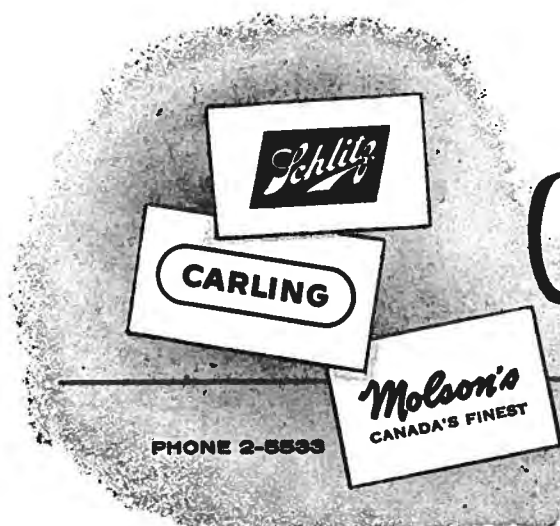
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SYNOPSIS OF WILSON FIRE COMPANIES

The Wilson Fire Company was organized formally, September 17, 1923. This Company has served the community with no pay except the satisfaction of service rendered; the thrill of adventure and the pleasure of companionship.

The fire company owes a great deal to the continued effort and perserverance of Ernest Horton, who served as the first president. They met anywhere, at first, in Biggins Blacksmith Shop, upstairs over the Horton's Hardware, and finally in the cobblestone building which was first Luther Wilson's office, then a school house, next a meeting place for the G.A.R. and just before it became a fire hall, it was a shoemaker's shop.

The first fire company had no funds at all, and used orange crates for seats. The two hose carts that they used were not theirs but belonged to the town of Newfane. Practice fire drill saw the company divided into two squads, tearing thru the streets of Wilson, in answer to a "fire." Two men were on the tongue, and one man on each of the two ropes pulling the cart. One of the original charter members reports that when Mr. Horton was hydrant man he couldn't run quite as fast as the others, and invariably his squad lost out on the first

hydrant, until the day they met the horse drawn democrat. Climbing aboard the wagon, the teamster whipped up his horses, the men dragging the hose cart along behind. All went well, and they had a head start, arriving ahead of No. 2 squad. There was only one slight drawback; when they got to the indicated hydrant, no one could see it. The combination of the running horses, the wagon wheels and the following cart had thrown up so much mud, it was completely covered.

In order to raise funds to buy the necessary equipment, the men arranged a series of entertainments. The first of which was a balloon dance in Middleton's Hall. Several of the balloons floating in the hall contained one dollar bills and the lucky recipient earned the price of admission. The first dance earned \$200.

The first Field Day was held in August, 1924. During the evening of the festival, a fire alarm was sounded and the men raced to try to save a small building between the grist mill and the lumber mill. The shack was lost and a man died in the burning building.

On March 14, 1925, the organization was the proud possessor of the first fire truck, the same La France so familiar to the village of Wilson. The truck cost \$12,000 and many members of the volunteer group signed the notes making it possible to purchase the engine.

Mr. Charles Crawford was the first fire chief, and the complete uniform of white cap, trousers and shirt cost \$2.50.

For several years the volunteers supported themselves and raised money for expenses by holding country fairs in Middleton's Hall, and of course, the annual field days continued. The operator on the local telephone switchboard blew the siren, but she was under no legal compulsion to do so.

It was in Wilson, too, that the three towns, Wilson, Ransomville and Newfane, got together to work out some sort of all over organization and the countrywide firemen's association had its beginning. Joel Baker was the first president and Clifford Shoultz the next presi-

dent. He served for 7 years. The Charter members were: Ernest Horton, Charles Crawford, James Wilcox, Lee Ward, William Lashner, Merle Wilson, Roy DeNeau, Harry Holden, Henry Stockwell, Herman Smith and Harry Biggins.

In 1952 the Company purchased a Seagraves pumper. This truck has a 500 gallon capacity which greatly increased the efficiency of the firemen. In 1958 the company obtained a Ward-LaFrance combination pumper, high pressure and tank truck; and so with the support of the town and village the area is now protected by 3 pumpers, a tank truck and an ambulance. The ambulance is free of charge to anyone in the town and village who has need of this transportation.

Today there are 70 active volunteers with the following officers:

President—Howard Caufield

Vice President—Maurice Upton

Fire Chief—Kenneth Welker

Assistant Chief—Norbert Sherrie

Secretary—Bernard Israel

Treasurer—William Ganshaw

Parade Foreman—Lewis Diez

Assistant Foreman—Jack Williams

Trustees—William Scheffer, Fay Campbell, Robert Horton, James Wilcox and Melvin Schrader.

In 1953, another Fire Company was formed in the Town of Wilson under the name of South Wilson Volunteer Fire Company. Their Fire Hall is located on Chestnut Road, Town of Wilson. They are equipped with a 500 gallon water tank, 500 G.P.M. Ward-LaFrance Pumper.

Their present membership is 50. Albert Kinsley is President and Merritt Thilk is Chief.

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